Rehabilitation of tribal groups

†4398. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several tribal groups are facing the rehabilitation problem in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Because of ethnic violence in Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon and Dhubri districts of Assam during 1996 and 1998, some people from tribal communities of these areas were rendered homeless. During 1996-97 to 1998-99, Rs. 25.00 crores was released to Govt, of Assam for rehabilitation of such refugee families. A further amount of Rs. 35.29 crores was released to Govt, of Assam for this purpose during the period 2000-01 to 2004-2005. These refugee families are also being provided Gratuitous Relief by the State Government which is reimbursed under the Scheme of Security Related Expenditure. In 1997, some Bru (Reang) tribals of Mizoram had migrated to Tripura due to attacks on them by Mizo villagers. Ministry of Home Affairs has been extending grants-in-aid to Govt, of Tripura for maintenance of Bru (Reang) refugees who are sheltered in relief camps in Tripura. During 2004-05, the Ministry of Home Affairs extended grants-in-aid of Rs. 11.00 crores to Govt, of Tripura for mainenance of Bru (Reang) refugees in Tripura.

Losses due to heavy snowfall in J&K and HP

4399. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of life and property caused by heavy snowfall in Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) What steps are proposed by Government to effectively meet such crisis in future and for timely relief and restoration of communcation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) 283 Civilians besides 14 ITPB, 6 BRO (GREF) personnel in Jammu & Kashmir and 5 civilians in Himachal Pradesh lost their lives due to recent snowfall and avalanches. In Jammu & Kashmir, 28,787 Houses were fully partially damaged. 91,780 hectares of cropped area, 1,03,100 hectares of horticulture were damaged besides there was also a loss to sericulture

and livestock. The Government of Himachal Pradesh have not informed this Ministry of the damage.

The State Governments are required to undertake rescue, relief and restoration of immediate nature in wake of natural disasters out of the corpus of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), which is contributed by the Government of India in the ratio of 3:1. When the calamity is of a severe nature and the CRF is not sufficient, the Central Government gives assistance to the States out of the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after following the established procedure. An amount of Rs. 86.56 crore has been allocated in the CRF of Jammu & Kashmir and Rs. 100.69 crore for Himachal Pradesh for the year 2005-06.

Providing Visas to Tourists at airports

†4400. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government are considering to provide visas to tourists at any airport of the country after their arrival with a view to boost tourism;

(b)if so, the details thereof; and

(c)if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recommendation of Group of Ministers on Tourism, Industry and Trade regarding introduction of Visa-on-Arrival scheme for nationals of 16 identified countries on experimental basis at Delhi and Mumbai international airports is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Question does not arise.

Dual citizenship

4401. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to confer unqualified 'dual citizenship' to all people of Indian origin settled abroad;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.